application. In particular, the differences between the present invention and the cited reference of US patent no. 6,625,320 to Nilsson et al., hereinafter "Nilsson", were discussed. Applicants appreciate Examiner Vo's acknowledgement of the Declaration under 37 C.F.R. 1.132, and also Examiner Vo's acknowledgement that Nilsson, which discloses motion estimation, does not disclose look-ahead estimation as provided in the present invention.

Claims 1-6, 9-11, and 13-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Nilsson. Claims 1 and 9 are independent. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 provides a system for transcoding compressed video signals, including a plurality of pictures. The system includes a decoder to completely or partially decode an input compressed video signal, a look-ahead estimator, and an encoder. The look-ahead estimator gathers information from the input compressed video signal prior to input to the decoder to estimate future signal characteristics of one or more future incoming pictures, and gathers information from the decoder to estimate current signal characteristics of a current picture. The encoder compresses the reconstructed video signal according to a coding scheme derived from the current and future signal characteristics from the look-ahead estimator.

As discussed above, Nilsson does not disclose or suggest a look-ahead estimator. Therefore, Nilsson does not disclose a system for transcoding compressed video signals, including a "look-ahead estimator to gather information from said input compressed video signal prior to input to said decoder to estimate future signal characteristics of one or more future incoming pictures, and to gather information from said decoder to estimate current signal characteristics of a current picture," as recited in claim 1. Thus, Nilsson neither discloses nor suggests that which is recited in claim 1.

Claim 9 recites elements similar to those recited in claim 1. For at least reasoning similar to that provided in support of the patentability of claim 1, claim 9 is

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patentable over Nilsson.

Claims 2-6 depend from claim 1. Claims 10, 11 and 13-19 depend from claim 9. For at least reasoning similar to that provided in support of the patentability of claims 1 and 9, claims 2-6, 10, 11 and 13-19 are patentable over Nilsson.

For the above reasons, the rejection of claims 1-6, 9-11, and 13-19 under U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Nilsson is overcome. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-6, 9-11, and 13-19.

Claims 7-8 and 20-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Nilsson in view of US Patent No. 5,889,561 to Kwok et al., hereinafter "Kwok". Applicants traverse this rejection.

As discussed above, Nilsson does not disclose or suggest the elements of claim 1.

Kwok discloses a method and apparatus for re-scaling compressed MPEG-encoded video signals from a higher to a lower bit rate. The re-scaling disclosed in Kwok is performed within the current picture only after the input signal for the current picture has been at least partially decoded (col. 2, lines 10-16). In all embodiments, a coded video signal input to Kwok's apparatus must be at least partially decoded within the decoder prior to re-scaling and re-quantizing.

Therefore, Kwok also does not disclose or suggest a system for transcoding compressed video signals, including a "look-ahead estimator to gather information from said input compressed video signal prior to input to said decoder to estimate future signal characteristics of one or more future incoming pictures, and to gather information from said decoder to estimate current signal characteristics of a current picture," as recited in claim 1.

Thus, Nilsson and Kwok, whether considered alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest the elements of claim 1. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable over the cited combination of Nilsson and Kwok.

Claim 9 recites elements similar to those recited in claim 1. For at least reasoning similar to that provided in support of the patentability of claim 1, claim 9 is patentable over the cited combination of Nilsson and Kwok.
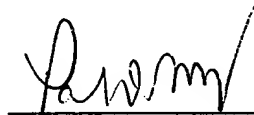
Claims 7-8 depend from claim 1. Claims 20-25 depend from claim 9. For at least reasoning similar to that provided in support of the patentability of claims 1 and 9, claims 7-8 and 20-25 are patentable over the cited combination of Nilsson and Kwok.

For the above reasons, the rejection of claims 7-8 and 20-25 under U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Nilsson in view of Kwok is overcome. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 7-8 and 20-25.

An indication of the allowability of all pending claims by issuance of a Notice of Allowability is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Paul D. Greeley
Registration No. 31,019
Attorney for Applicants
Ohlandt, Greeley, Ruggiero & Perle, LLP
One Landmark Square, 10th Floor
Stamford, CT 06901-2682
Tel: (203) 327-4500
Fax: (203) 327-6401